

Biden Hits School Redistricting Plan

By NORM LOCKMAN

Joseph S. Biden, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, said yesterday he doesn't think breaking down school district lines to improve racial balance is a good thing.

At a Hotel du Pont press conference, Biden said such a move in the Wilmington area would lead to unnecessary busing and possibly a racial quota system.

"Racial balance (in schools) in and of itself means nothing," said Biden.

BIDEN was being questioned about the controversial state Human Relations Commission report which suggests redrawing city school district lines to achieve better racial balance.

Biden said he disagrees with those who say that the Wilmington school system is a case of de facto segregation. He said he doubts that the Wilmington situation would be judged de facto by the Supreme Court.

Biden's impromptu press conference was held after U.S. Sen. Adlai Stevenson III failed to appear at a \$50-a-head fund-raising cocktail party.

ABOUT 50 persons listened to Stevenson express his regrets in a taped telephone conversation. The senator, one of several who have endorsed Biden, said he had to remain in Washington to support a vital amendment to the Highway Trust Fund legislation.

Biden said he was glad Stevenson stayed to vote, "because this is something I've been concerned about for a long time." The legislation being considered would liberalize the use of the Highway Trust Fund, extending it to cover mass transit.

Biden said he expects Stevenson to come to Delaware to campaign with him, possibly for a whole day in October. He also hinted that U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts may come to the state to help him.